



# 2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Customer Focus

The Red Cliff Tribe has requested NRCS assistance in constructing a man-made wetland near their fish hatchery in Northern Wisconsin. This project will be part of the Wisconsin State Aquaculture Center, located on the reservation, and will be used for research and training in fish farming.

This wetland will act as a filtration system treating the wastewater that is being discharged from the hatchery. An innovative approach to wastewater treatment in aquaculture, the wetland will naturally filter high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous from the water discharged from the hatchery. This research could prove to have beneficial effects on the industry since wastewater treatment is a major portion of the permitting process.

Another component of this project is a new community park and trout pond. This park has a walking trail around the pond along with several picnic areas. The pond will be stocked with brook trout from the Red Cliff fish hatchery. The trail will be an educational tool for the community utilizing interpretive signs along the trail explaining the wetland ecosystem and its function.



## Wisconsin Summary

### Overview

In Wisconsin, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Applications requesting Federal cost-share funds totaling over \$5.2 million dollars were submitted by 838 landowners. The Wisconsin FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$3,503,000.

There were over 500 applicants for the funds available for Statewide Concerns. This is in spite of the fact that the only practices eligible for cost sharing under Statewide Concerns were nutrient management, residue management, prescribed grazing, well abandonment, and barnyard clean water work. If sufficient funds were available to aggressively pursue needed waste storage structures and other more expensive livestock practices, applications would increase dramatically.

### Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in Wisconsin through 20 Geographic Priority Areas (GPA) and 4 Statewide Natural Resource Concern (SNRC) projects. About \$2,466,300 in EQIP Federal cost-share dollars were obligated in GPAs and \$1,003,400 obligated in SNRC projects. In addition to financial assistance, \$170,000 in EQIP education funds was awarded in grants to organizations and groups providing education to agricultural producers on resource conservation and environmental concerns throughout the state. Since the inception of EQIP in Wisconsin, over 18,000 distinct conservation practices have been planned in EQIP contracts.

Many of the most successful projects in Wisconsin have been nontraditional in that they have benefited producers who are not normally participants in USDA programs. Since 1997, seven of the EQIP priority areas have been on tribal lands. Some have dealt with the control of invasive species to protect significant ecosystems and areas important to tribal subsistence agriculture. The EQIP educational assistance component has also been involved with tribal activities, as well as working with Amish and Hmong producers.

### Outlook

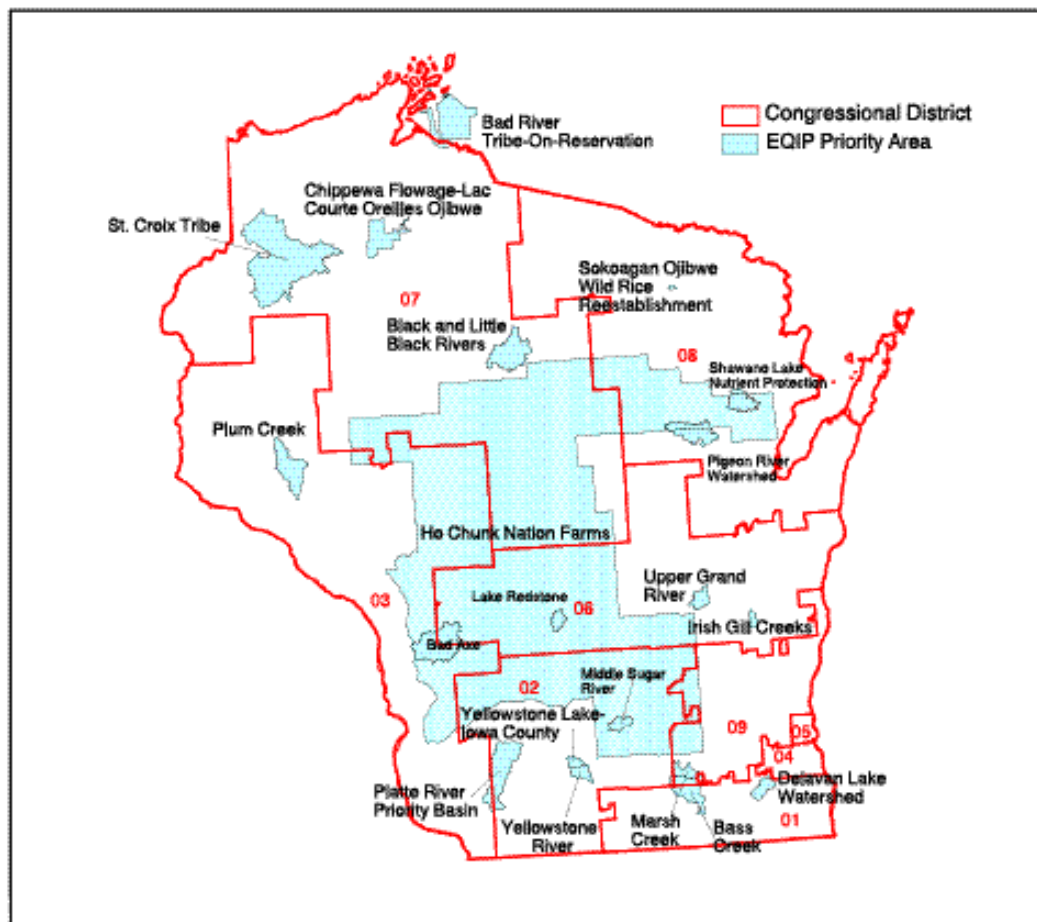
With a record of strong participation in the EQIP program in Wisconsin, NRCS along with other agencies, and environmental groups represented on the Wisconsin State Technical Committee, we expect continued firm interest in the program in future years.

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## Wisconsin EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



## Wisconsin EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$287,224	17	\$1,957,121	136
District 2	502,480	81	2,436,539	386
District 3	1,144,998	170	5,755,439	823
District 4	0	0	4,125	2
District 5	0	0	0	0
District 6	568,345	105	2,127,891	498
District 7	591,335	76	2,027,149	387
District 8	129,356	53	1,306,399	243
District 9	241,495	31	742,488	173
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$3,465,233</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>\$16,357,151</b>	<b>2,648</b>

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